

News Around The Flock

The Church of the Good Shepherd

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Easter 2022

Easter Message

Rev. Jonathan Springthorpe

What is Easter all about? The Easter Message is about the depth of God's love and passion for us human beings. Now some may be tempted to just sum up the message of Easter with the word "Love" and they wouldn't be wrong. It is in fact the greatest, clearest, most moving and impactful message of love. While we may be able to sum up the message of Easter as love it is paramount to recognize that the message is about a Person and that Person is Jesus Christ. God became flesh and dwelt among us in Jesus. God came to show us the way to be truly human in that Jesus shows us what a human being fulfilling His vocation is all about. God reveals what His Kingdom is like in the words, teachings, and actions of Jesus. It is important to grasp that at the heart of the Easter message is the Person of Christ. He was fully God and fully man. He lived a sinless life and demonstrated God's love at every turn. He healed the sick, cleansed the lepers, opened the eyes of the blind, fed the hungry, and call all people to repent, to turn from evil and learn to do what is right in the eyes of God. Jesus didn't simply speak words of love, He demonstrated love in every action. Sometimes those actions were gentle and compassionate and sometimes He spoke hard words to people with calloused hearts but in every situation and every moment Jesus showed love to God the Father through His perfect submission to his will.

While it is tempting to boil it all down to love I tend to resist that simplification of the Gospel because the Gospel is about a Person. If we say to someone outside of the church that the Easter Message is simply about love, we are depriving them of the knowledge that the Easter Message is about the love of God and the love and passion of Jesus. Jesus walked the heavy road to Jerusalem knowing all the



Service Times

Palm Sunday & Lunch:
April 10th - 10:30AM

Maundy Thursday Service:
April 14th - 7:00PM

Good Friday Service:
April 15th - 11:00 AM

Easter Sunday:
April 17th - 10:30 AM

Regular Services:

Holy Communion on
Sundays at 10:30 AM

Morning Prayer on
Wednesdays at 9:00 AM



while that He was going to be betrayed at the hands of sinners. He knew that He was going to be put to death and not just any death but the agony of the crucifixion. He knew that He would be mocked and scorned and that people who heckle and jeer at him. He was beaten and rejected. This Passion of Christ demonstrates God's love in a way that no other way could. In order for Jesus to offer salvation to sinful human beings He must stand and suffer in their place, in our place. I pray this Easter that you will focus on the Person of Christ and His Passion which is the deepest expression of His love for you and me.

Isaiah 49:16, says, See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands. We know God's love for us for Jesus still bears the marks of the crucifixion when He willingly laid down His life for us!

GOOD FRIDAY VIGIL - NOON UNTIL MIDNIGHT

We will continue our tradition of holding a vigil after the Good Friday service. We are looking for pairs of volunteers to sign up for one-hour segments between noon and midnight - a sign-up sheet is in the narthex or you can call the office. During this time, you may wish to visit the Stations of the Cross or use the time for quiet contemplation and prayer. Bibles, prayer books and other liturgy will be available.

Easter Memorials

Please have your **Easter Memorials** into the office no later than **Tuesday April 12th**, so that they will be in the bulletin in time for Easter Service. Thank you!

Our Dearly Departed

Jean Van Wart - Jan. 5/22

Vivian Garrett - March 29/22

Dianne Cormier - March 30/22

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen



We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) and Mi'kmaq Peoples.

PRAYER FOR UKRAINE

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of
Ukraine today.

We pray for peace and the
laying down of weapons.

We pray for all those who fear
for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would
draw near to them.

We pray for those with power
over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and
compassion to guide their
decisions.

Above all, we pray for all your
precious children, at risk and in
fear,
that you would hold and protect
them.

We pray in the name of Jesus,
the Prince of Peace.
Amen

*Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell*

KENYAN RITE SERVICE

On Sunday May 22nd we are going to have a special worship service using a liturgy developed in Africa known as the Kenyan Rite Service. During my time at Stone Church we used this service as Stone had a very special relationship with a minister from Kenya and they shared this service with us here in New Brunswick. It is a beautiful service in contemporary English from our Anglican Brothers and Sisters in Kenya! I hope you enjoy this liturgical treat!



As many of you have seen, we now have a flag from the Ukraine flying near the entrance to our church. We have this as a sign of solidarity with the Ukrainian people. Please continue in prayer for all of those affected by this war. Pray for world leaders to act with wisdom. Pray for an end to this tragic conflict. Pray for those who have lost loved ones. Pray for those who have lost their homes and are forced to flee that God would provide for them safety and shelter.



**Join us on May22nd
for this special
service!**

OUR SEXTON LARRY



Larry has been recovering very well and even better than expected since his surgery. He is looking forward to coming back to work in April. We are very grateful for his son Sean who has been filling in and covering all duties while Larry has been recuperating!

YOUTH GROUP

Our Jr. Youth Group was on hold from December until early this year due to the restrictions because of Covid. We decided in February to hold several online Youth Group meetings with up to 6 youth joining in. In March we started back with a live in-person youth group and many of the kids have returned who were coming in the fall. We make crafts, pray, play games, share what's going on in our lives and learn from the bible.



DISCERNMENT UPDATE

Rick continues to work hard on his course work. He is in the home stretch with his studies.

He remains very busy with work and family and is very much looking forward to being in fulltime ministry on the horizon.



BIBLE STUDY

Our Bible Study Group has been meeting on Tuesday evenings in the Small Hall and on Zoom since February. We are participating in NT Wright's Simply Jesus Small Group Course. Each week we hear

Tom present his own interpretation of a bible passage from one of the gospels and then he speaks on that passage for about 20 minutes. He is a solid teacher and a good presenter. There are usually 4 of us in the Small Hall and another 6 or 7 online through the Zoom Application. I enjoy our lively discussions!

Our Finances

After experiencing significant annual losses for 2020 and 2021, we knew this year was going to present challenges financially. As you may recall we went into this year budgeting for a loss of \$30,100. What we didn't expect was unprecedented high furnace oil prices and over \$2,000 in furnace repair bills in the first quarter of 2022.

Our income for the first 3 months of 2022 is only slightly below budget and only slightly behind the same period for 2021. Expenses, on the other hand are \$6,400 over budget and \$7,100 over the first 3 months of last year.

We pray that as pandemic restrictions are lifting that our income improves and as we exit the heating season that we can manage costs for the remainder of the year so that our current loss does not increase beyond the \$30,100 budgeted loss. Any loss we experience is covered by our Memorial Fund which currently sits at \$143K.

	<i>Jan - Mar</i>	<i>Jan - Mar</i>	<i>Jan - Dec</i>
	2022	2021	2021
Offerings	32,069	33,993	161,329
Reaching the Kingdom	-	1,327	2,164
Rents	3,120	990	8,030
Interest	-	-	4,505
Federal Subsidy	-	221	1,758
Total Income	35,189	36,531	177,786
Salaries	28,630	28,229	114,322
Church Bldg & Office	22,921	16,663	48,436
Rectory	2,846	2,638	8,461
Worship & Programs	1,447	822	2,191
Shared Ministry	6,561	6,983	27,932
Total Expenses	62,403	55,335	201,342
YTD Loss	(27,214)	(18,804)	(23,556)



How to make your offerings:

- E-Offerings: see form and instructions at <https://nb.anglican.ca/programs/eoffering>
- E-Transfer: goodshep@nb.sympatico.ca (**we are now registered for Auto-deposit so no security question required**)
- Mail or drop your offerings off at the church office

Call the church office at 635-8145 for more info on any of the above options.

TINNTINNABULA HANDBELL CHOIR

Lynn Adams

We are pleased to announce we have gained two new members since Christmas. Including our director, we have ten members, but we are always looking for more members. One of our new members is a gentleman, I am sure he could use some friendly male support. We are still hoping to play soon for the church during a service but our director wants to make sure we are ready. So please feel free to drop by some Monday evening and give the bells a try. You have nothing to lose and you may just like it or like me, love it! You may find you love the music, the companionship of the choir, and the skill of ringing the bells and the chimes.



MEN'S GROUP

Our latest Men's Breakfast happened on Saturday March 26th after being postponed earlier due to Covid. It is great to get together with the guys and enjoy a hearty breakfast. We had a short Bible devotion and a discussion on the kinds of projects we want to tackle this spring.

Our next Breakfast is scheduled for April 30th at AJ's Restaurant. We hope more men will join us!



Ladies In Fellowship Together - LIFT

A HUGE "THANK YOU" to all for supporting our annual "Bakeless" Bake Sale in February! This year, the proceeds were designated to creating Family Time Bags for families of St. Rose School students and it was our most successful February fundraiser yet! The ladies put 25 bags together and delivered them just in time for the Family Day weekend. Each Family Time bag included ingredients to make either homemade pizza or spaghetti & sauce. All bags also included a cake mix and frosting for dessert as well as a boardgame and popcorn to complete a "Family Time" evening.

We continue to make greeting cards to keep our stock replenished regularly for our parish Caring Card ministry. We have some very creative members!

We are always looking for new members. If you or someone you know would like to join us we meet the second Thursday of every month (September to June) at 6:30 in the small hall. 😊



CARING FOR COMMUNITY



CARING CARDS: Our very talented ladies of Lift continue to make hand crafted cards that we send out as a quick hello to those we haven't seen in a while, those who need a little cheer or sympathy and those who are enjoying one of life's many celebrations. If you know of someone, parishioner, neighbour, friend please let us know and we will be happy to mail them a card with a short note. 😊

CARING CLOSET

Please continue to bring in your used but useful clothing and household items and we will continue to forward them on to Hillcrest Baptist Church in support of their ministry to newcomer families. They are very grateful that we have answered their call for help. This is an ongoing mission so we will continue to deliver as needed.

CARING FOR OUR NEIGHBOURS

Staff at St. Rose School were thrilled to receive the "Family Time" bags and excited to provide them to 25 students for their families!



SHEPHERD'S CUPBOARD

This ministry provides some basic grocery items for people who are in need. We are a stop gap for people who have used up their resources for the month and who have already gone to the food bank to receive help. We usually give 2 bags of items including pasta, pasta sauce, canned fruits and vegetables, cereal, juice, and toiletries among other items. You can support this outreach by bringing in dry goods on Sunday mornings, a grocery gift card or by giving financial donations. Since the start of 2022, we have helped 9 families in need and they are most grateful.



ROMERO HOUSE COOKING TEAM

Sharon Baxter

In April, we will mark two full years of assisting Romero House with helping those who face hunger. Without the incredible help from our congregation - this would not be possible. We spend approx. \$80 each week on the following:

20 loaves of bread	10 lbs potatoes
5 lbs carrots	3 lbs onions
2 turnips	1 lg cabbage
3 lg peanut butter	4 lg jam

Many thanks to our shoppers - Sharon Titus, Lori McGovern and Patti Vaughn who take turns picking up the necessities for us each week.

Thanks also to the cooking crew - Ann Stone, Susan Dole, Gilles Roy, Sharon Baxter - who show up bright and early on Saturdays to prepare all the food and John Campbell who has been doing the pick-up and deliveries to Romero House every week.

And a special Thank You to Rick Cunningham - the brains behind the operation 😊

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THIS MISSION!



MAP (MISSION ACTION PLAN)

Now that Covid restrictions have relaxed, we are eager to revive some traditional events and begin some new social initiatives to re-engage with each other on a more personal level!

Please join us for lunch after church on April 10th (Palm Sunday) which is being hosted by our Romero House Cooking Crew! This will be the first of monthly after-church socials.

We are also working on a **monthly social event** in the evening which may take the form of a games night, book exchange, craft night etc.

Our annual **Blessing of the Bikes and Biker's Breakfast is scheduled for May 28th**. All are welcome - even walkers!

It is our hope that as we strengthen the bonds between us, we can also expand our mission and outreach to the community beginning with these opportunities for fellowship. We have a strong foundation in place on which to build and ask for your ideas, participation and prayers for our MAP! Please speak with Rev. Jonathan, Janet Brown or Terry Ricketts if you have input to share!



If you wish to know more about the Mission Action Plan please see the Diocese website [Mission Action Plans | Resources | Anglican](#)

WINTER MISSION UPDATES

SEAFARER'S MISSION - After a covid delay, our Youth Group was finally able to sort, package and deliver gift bags to the Seafarer's Mission last month where it was gratefully received by the mission manager, Bev Sullivan! Thank you to all who donated to this important west side mission.



A CHRISTMAS BASKET TESTIMONIAL

On March 27th, one of our wardens, Sharon Baxter, arranged for her good friend, Mary Lou Price, to address the congregation. It was a thank you and a testament to the power of God when he works through us in our mission projects. Her moving story is presented in her words below:

This is the story about my nephew BP and his constant companion - Bud the cat.

BP is a quiet, solitary and brilliant man who struggles with mental illness. His mental illness was recognized in his late teens after a suicide attempt. Despite early struggles, with medication and the proper support he has always held a fulltime job that provided him with the basics. He took great pride in the fact that he could pay for a roof over his head, food, minimal savings, bus fare and just enough left over for the occasional Tim's coffee and his favorite sour cream donut. Sometimes a cat toy for Bud.

As far as BP was concerned, life was good. A great source of pride for him was that he did not have to depend on his parents, me or anyone else for anything. That was until Covid hit and the lockdowns happened. Like many folks, it hit him hard. Due to lack of work, he was laid off from his job. The job that not only provided a source of income, daily structure and a sense of purpose, but it afforded him some of the socialization he needed so he did not feel isolated and alone.

Then it seemed like a cascade of bad luck descended on him. He and all the tenants in his affordable apartment building were evicted so the new owners could renovate. It was a struggle

to find him accommodations in his price range that would accept Bud, so he had to go a little higher than his budget. Both of his parents became ill and that was a tremendous source of worry for him. BP had to start using the food bank and Romero House to make ends meet. This was also stressful for him as he felt he was taking away from those who truly needed help.

Eventually BP's phone was disconnected and I was not able to reach him for quite a few days. When I went to his apartment, I was shocked at the man who answered the door. He had lost about 30 pounds, was disheveled and looked like he had given up. He begged me not to tell his parents that he had been existing for the last week on stale cheerios and water. He had used the last of his money for a couple of cans of food for Bud as he couldn't bear for Bud to go hungry. After buying him some groceries and calling his parents on the "down low", we came up with a partial solution. He would accept his parents paying for his medications and phone as he needed it to apply for work, but he would not budge on anything else. So that brings me to Sharon and Lori. I mentioned to my good friend Sharon about his plight and the next thing I knew she and her sister were on the case. BP was set up to receive a Christmas basket from the Church of the Good Shepherd and on their own, Sharon and Lori made sure that Bud was gifted with food and toys.

When I picked up the Christmas basket, I was floored at how much was donated. BP would not have to worry about food security for at least a month!! BP was overwhelmed at his Christmas basket and it brought him to tears. He could not believe strangers would do this for him. He was so grateful and it was in that moment I sensed something shifted. He was so uplifted by the generosity that he felt hope again. What is more, on that hope he gathered the strength to go and look for work. While on the lookout for a job, BP applied and was accepted into a work program, set up with a counsellor, training and a job placement. He is now working fulltime and may be eligible for new housing that is just a hop, skip and jump from his new job.

From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank you and the Christmas basket team sincerely for being Good Shepherds and being Jesus centered in the community. A box of food and supplies, given in the spirit and light of Christmas uplifted my nephew from the darkness. It brought the true meaning of Christmas to his heart and most importantly - gave him hope and joy that he is still carrying with him today.

Mary Lou Price,

BP's Aunt

May God bless all those who find themselves in need. We pray that we may continue to be God's vessels in our daily lives and in our mission work.

FINANCIAL FUTURE COMMITTEE (FCC)

The FCC continues to gather further information on the costs and benefits associated with three options that could be pursued to provide additional income to help offset the considerable costs associated with heating and maintaining our building. The options under consideration include:

- An **Adult Day Care** to provide programs for older adults with cognitive impairment. This could be run from the Small Hall. We are working with a contact in the Department of Social Development to determine the income opportunity as well as the accessibility requirements.
- Production of home-made meals (**Home Meal Replacement**) using the Large Kitchen and selling them from the Small Chapel. We would like to also be able to provide an opportunity for skill development for people in need of a leg-up and are looking for a partner for this.
- Conversion of the Large Hall (gym) into **Affordable Housing**. We are working with Housing Alternatives and have had an architect look at the space. We are waiting on that report to understand the income potential.

We would welcome any input regarding the options that are under consideration as well as any ideas you might have for additional opportunities. Our committee is currently meeting monthly for about an hour if you are interested in joining us. Feel free to contact Susan Jack (susa.jack@bellaliant.net or 506-849-4019).

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 10th - Palm Sunday - Lunch after service

April 17th - Easter Sunday

April 30th - Men's Breakfast at AJ's

May 22nd - Kenyan Rite Service

May 28th - Blessing of the Bikes and Biker's Breakfast

Do we have your e-mail address?

If you're receiving a printed copy of this newsletter and have an e-mail address, please contact the church office so we can add you to the Parish distribution list. If you don't have e-mail, that's fine, you will continue to receive printed copies.